ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MADRAS COURT OF SMALL CAUSES

FOR THE YEAR 1886.

XIII A
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MADRAS COURT OF SMALL CAUSES,
10th February 1887.

No. 96.

From

THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF SMALL CAUSES, MADRAS,

To

THE HONORABLE H. E. STOKES,
Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

SIR,

WE have the honor to submit the report of the Madras Court of Small Causes for the year ending 31st December 1886, being the 36th annual report since the establishment of the Court.

2. The total number of suits instituted during the year was 27,392, being 356 in excess of the number instituted in 1885.

3. As compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of 473 in the number of suits below Rs. 5 in value and an increase of 809 in the number of suits between Rs. 5 and Rs. 1,000, the greatest proportionate increase being in the suits between Rs. 50 and Rs. 100. The number of suits above Rs. 1,000 in value was precisely the same in the two years.

4. There was a marked diminution in the number of summary suits on negotiable instruments under chapter XXXIX of the Code of Civil Procedure, the numbers being 305 in 1885 and 182 in 1886. The advantages of the procedure under that chapter, as compared with the ordinary procedure of this Court, are not very great, and we are quite prepared to find that it gradually falls into disuse.

5. The number of applications under chapter 7 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act for recovery of possession of immovable property was less in this year than in the previous year, the figures being 492 in 1886 and 539 in 1885. This seems to show that the rise in the number of such applications remarked upon in our report for 1885 was exceptional.

6. The total value of the suits instituted was Rs. 12,13,304 as against Rs. 11,55,564 in 1885, showing an increase of Rs. 57,740. This corresponds with the fact before noticed, that there has been a diminution in the number of suits of small value and an increase in those of larger value.

7. The number of suits disposed of was 27,411, being 343 less than in 1885. This is accounted for, by the fact, that there were less suits to be disposed of, owing to the number of suits pending at the beginning of the year being less than at the beginning of 1885. In 1885 there were 3,345 suits pending at the beginning of the year and 27,036 filed during the year, making a total of 30,381 to be disposed of. In 1886 there were 2,627 pending at the beginning of the year and 27,392 filed, making 30,019 for disposal or 362 less than in 1885. Of the 2,608 suits left pending at the close of the year, only 300 were adjourned by the Judges or Registrar, all the rest being either cases in which the first summons was made returnable in 1887, or in which fresh summons had been issued returnable in 1887, or in which the summons had been sent to the mofussil for service and not returned. Of the 300 adjourned cases, by far the greater number were adjourned for the convenience of the parties or their attorneys or pleaders, not more than 50

in all the courts having been adjourned at the end of the day. The general result of the disposals of the year may be said to be that the Court disposed of as many suits as were instituted and 19 more, and, considering what has been said about the suits pending at the close of the year, that the Court disposed of almost all the work it had to do.

8. The number of contested suits disposed of during the year was 3,400, being 361 less than in 1885 but 1,000 more than in 1884.

9. Besides the work appearing in Judicial forms 1 and 4, the Chief Judge disposed of 4 cases under the Land Acquisition Act.

10. The average duration of ordinary suits was 39 days for contested and 26 for uncontested cases against 40 and 28, respectively, in 1885. It is curious that the average time for disposal of summary suits under chapter 39 is greater, viz., 44 and 30 days for contested and uncontested, respectively. In 1885 the figures were much higher, viz., 85 and 48. In the case of contested suits under this chapter, *i. e.*, suits in which leave to defend has been obtained, there is a reason for this, viz., that the procedure of issuing notice to the plaintiff to show cause why leave to defend should not be granted takes more time than the ordinary procedure, but in uncontested suits under this chapter the reason is not clear. We believe it to be that the plaintiffs in these cases, mostly money-lenders, do not choose to apply for judgment when they might do so, but prefer to keep the suit hanging over the heads of their debtors as a means of extorting from them renewed documents at enhanced rates.

11. The total revenue was Rs. 1,77,007, being Rs. 6,372 more than that of 1885, whereas the disbursements were Rs. 3,024 less than in 1885. The net revenue was Rs. 76,115, being in excess of Rs. 9,396 over that of 1885. The decrease in expenditure is mainly due to the fact that for a great part of the year the Registrar and Head Clerk were only acting and drew less pay than the permanent incumbents, and to the refunds being less by Rs. 800 than in the previous year.

12. We append the usual comparative statement of the number and value of suits filed and of the fees realized since 1874.

13. There were 111 applications for new trials during the year as against 163 in the previous year. Eighty-six of these were disposed of without calling upon the other side and new trials were granted in 19 cases. There were no new trials ordered by the High Court under section 38 of the Small Cause Courts Act. The High Court called for the records of 12 cases under section 622 of the Civil Procedure Code and reversed the judgment of this Court in one case.

14. We have to express our extreme regret that we have been unable to comply with the wishes of Government, expressed in the order upon our report for 1885 and in previous proceedings, to reduce the amount of judicial work done by the Registrar. The returns show a slight decrease in the number of contested cases tried by him, but a slight increase in that of uncontested cases and miscellaneous work. This increase is partly due to the High Court having, in the early part of the year, at our suggestion, passed rules under section 33 of the Small Cause Courts Act declaring what are non-judicial or quasi-judicial acts which may be done by the Registrar, which has thrown more miscellaneous work upon the Registrar. We fully agree in the expediency of the Registrar being relieved from some of his judicial work, so as to be able to devote more time to his ministerial duties, but this is impossible with our present staff of Judges. It is true, as pointed out above, that we have just been able in the past year to cope with the current work; but more than this we certainly could not have done, and it would not be possible to calculate upon even so much being done in every year, for we have been exceptionally fortunate, in, that none of the Judges has been obliged during the year to be absent from work on account of ill-health. To deal with the work as we have done, we have had to sit till 5 o'clock on most days and sometimes till 6. Thus we are unable at present to take away any judicial work from the Registrar, anxious as we are to comply with the wishes of Government in this respect. The evil of the present system is not, however, quite so great as at first sight it appears. The

cases tried by the Registrar being of a petty nature, are easily disposed of and do not really occupy much of his time. And, besides this, there is an experienced official, the Head Clerk, who is perfectly competent, under the superintendence of the Registrar, to supervise the establishment and do much of the other ministerial work of the Court.

(Signed) J. W. HANDLEY,
(,,) P. SREENEVASA RAO,
(,,) T. V. PONNOOSAMY PILLAI,
} *Judges.*

Statement of the comparative Number and Value of the Suits filed and the Revenue collected thereon in the last thirteen years.

Years.	Number of suits filed, inclusive of summary suits.	Total value of suits.	Fees realized.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1874	27,480	8,44,951 14 0	1,06,947 1 9
1875	26,389	7,95,442 13 1	1,01,749 3 1
1876	28,367	8,30,729 6 8	1,06,899 3 11
1877	26,941	8,95,816 1 11	1,32,198 8 10
1878	27,293	9,45,731 11 1	1,21,685 10 5
1879	25,662	8,37,637 0 1	1,03,751 13 4
1880	24,482	8,46,106 2 7	1,10,590 0 2
1881	24,472	8,92,427 12 3	1,14,840 1 7
1882	21,296	8,04,455 0 0	1,23,243 0 0
1883	25,079	10,44,126 0 0	1,47,943 0 0
1884	25,866	11,09,501 0 0	1,58,241 0 0
1885	27,036	11,55,564 0 0	1,70,635 0 0
1886	27,392	12,13,304 0 0	1,77,007 0 0

JUDICIAL FORM No. 1.

Showing the general result of the disposal of cases in the Presidency Court of Small Causes in the year 1886.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Court.	Number of suits pending on the 1st January 1886.	Number of suits instituted during the year 1886.	Number of suits disposed of during the year 1886.												Average duration of suits.		Remarks.
			Dismissed for default or want of prosecution.	Withdrawn with leave under section 373 of the Civil Procedure Code.	Compromised.	Without contest.			With contest.		On reference to arbitration.		Total disposed of.	Pending at the end of year.	Contested, including cases referred to arbitration.	Uncontested.	
						Decreed on confession.	Decreed *ex parte*.	Dismissed *ex parte*.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or in part.	Judgment for defendant.	For plaintiff.	For defendant.					
	2,608	*27,210	1,463	132	7,452	2,837	11,970	1	2,564	806	8	...	27,233	2,585	39	26	One hundred and eleven applications for new trials; in 25 cases a rule *nisi* for a new trial was granted, which was made absolute in 19 cases. Total time occupied by such cases, 19 days; average duration, 3 days.
Filed under chapter XXXIX of Civil Procedure Code ...	19	182	4	...	47	4	93	...	29	1	...	...	178	23	44	30	
Total ...	2,627	27,392	1,467	132	7,499	2,841	12,063	1	2,593	807	8	...	27,411	2,608	...	...	

* In column 3 are included 78 cases readmitted to the file.

JUDICIAL FORM No. 2.

Showing the number and description of suits and other applications pending and instituted in the Presidency Court of Small Causes in the year 1886.

1		2	3	4	5
Nature of claim.		Number of suits			Remarks.
		Pending on the 1st January 1886.	Instituted during the year 1886.	Total.	
Money due on contract ...	On written promise for sum certain	932	9,768	10,700	
	On unwritten promise for sum certain	476	2,175	2,651	
	On account stated	289	1,718	2,007	
	On balance of account, partnership or otherwise	...	...	...	
	Money paid or received	98	2,485	2,583	
	For goods sold and delivered	687	8,358	9,045	
Rent not falling under Rent law		64	2,031	2,095	
Damages	For injuries to person	...	...	...	
	For injuries to property	...	86	86	
	For other injuries not included in the above	...	...	...	
	For breach of contract not included in the above	9	19	28	
Title and other suits ...	For recovery of possession of immovable property under chapter VII of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act	53	492	545	
	Suits under the summary procedure, chapter XXXIX of the Civil Procedure Code	19	182	201	
	Applications under section 278 of the Code of Civil Procedure ...	29	276	305	
	Other applications	...	...	...	
	Other suits not falling under any of the previous heads	...	...	...	
	Total ...	2,656	27,590	30,246	

JUDICIAL FORM No. 8.

Showing the value of suits instituted in the Presidency Court of Small Causes in the year 1886, *together with the fees fand costs received in stamps.*

1 Institutions.	2 Number of suits.	3 Total value of suits.	4 Fees and costs received in stamps.	5 Remarks.
		Rs.	Rs.	
Suits not exceeding Rs. 5	6,624	19,474	3,303	
Suits exceeding Rs. 5, not exceeding Rs. 10	5,133	38,287	5,565	
Do. 10 do. 20	5,222	76,815	11,328	
Do. 20 do. 50	5,478	1,79,103	26,256	
Do. 50 do. 100	2,499	1,81,199	26,482	
Do. 100 do. 500	2,000	4,05,869	49,265	
Do. 500 do. 1,000	263	1,82,506	15,659	
Do. 1,000 do. 1,500	68	83,998	6,076	
Do. 1,500 do. 2,000	27	46,053	3,254	
Suits in which an excess above Rs. 2,000 was abandoned	...	...	...	
Total ...	27,314	12,13,304	1,47,188	This figure does not include the 78 suits readmitted.

JUDICIAL FORM No. 4.

Showing the disposal of suits according to value by each Judge of the Presidency Court of Small Causes during the year 1886.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
By	Judgment for plaintiff.			Judgment for defendant.			Settled by agreement.	Withdrawn with leave or dismissed under section 97, 98, or 102 of the Code.	Other miscellaneous cases.	Grand Total.	Number of days on which each Judge actually sat in Court.	Number of suits disposed of.									
	Contested.	Uncontested.	Total.	Contested.	Uncontested.	Total.						Not exceeding Rs. 5.	Suits between Rs. 5 and Rs. 10.	Suits between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20.	Suits between Rs. 20 and Rs. 50.	Suits between Rs. 50 and Rs. 100.	Suits between Rs. 100 and Rs. 500.	Suits between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000.	Suits between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500.	Suits between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,000.	Suits in which an excess above Rs. 2,000 was abandoned.
Chief Judge ...	443	936	1,379	132	...	132	277	95	2,217	4,100	250	59	88	141	851	413	256	36	24	15	...
Second Judge ...	447	2,339	2,786	100	...	100	216	163	2,299	5,564	196	33	39	67	1,697	759	573	79	13	5	...
Third Judge ...	426	1,936	2,362	78	...	78	705	165	913	4,223	196	55	45	101	1,802	708	519	71	9	...	...
Registrar	1,277	9,694	10,971	497	...	497	6,391	1,184	5,161	24,114	266	6,316	5,117	4,880	1,410	698	465	56	9	2	...
Total ...	2,593	14,905	17,498	807	...	807	7,499	1,607	10,590	38,001	908	6,463	5,289	5,189	5,760	2,578	1,813	242	55	22	...

MEMORANDUM.

	DAYS.	
The Court was closed on account of Sundays, not included in the vacation and the Christmas and Easter vacations.	40	
Do. do. of Christmas holidays	15	
Do. do. of Hindu holidays	6	
Do. do. of Muhammadan holidays	1	
Do. do. of vacation	63	One Judge sitting every day, except Saturdays.
Do. do. of Easter holidays	6	
Do. do. of the birthday of the Queen-Empress of India	...	
Do. do. of Prince of Wales' birthday	1	
Do. do. of last Saturday in the month, not including the last Saturdays in the vacation and the Christmas holidays	9	
Total ...	141	

Thirteen suits were referred to arbitration, of which 8 were decided in favor of plaintiff and 5 are still pending.

JUDICIAL FORM No. 5.

Showing the result of proceedings on applications for the execution of decrees in the Presidency Court of Small Causes in the year 1886.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Number of applications pending on the 1st January 1886.	Filed.		Total.	Applications disposed of.					Pending at the end of the year.	Amount realized		Number of applications on which					Remarks.
	The decrees being those of the Court where execution is taken out.	The decrees being those of other Courts transferred for execution.		Transferred to another Court under section 223.	Completely executed.	Partly executed.	Wholly infructuous.	Total.		With the issue of process.	Without the issue of process.	Judgment-debtor was imprisoned.	He was arrested under section 336, but released without imprisonment.	Property was sold.	Property was attached, but released.	Possession was given of immovables.	
										Rs.	Rs.						
3,140	12,479	34	15,653	422	4,018	444	7,244	12,128	3,525	63,229	1,10,691	428	819	372	722	81	

JUDICIAL FORM No. 6.

Showing the statistics of the Distraint Department of the Presidency Court of Small Causes for the year 1886.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Number of applications				Number of distresses.						Amount of rent for which distresses were issued.	Amount realized by sales.	Amount levied and paid into Court.	Commission and fees realized.	Remarks.
Pending on the 1st January 1886.	Admitted.	Refused or withdrawn.	Total.	Compromised		Number of sales.	Money paid into Court.	Distresses set aside.	Unexecuted.					
				Before distress.	After distress.									
							Rs.			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
...	198	...	198	...	15	17	75	12	79	5,180	214	2,090	246	

JUDICIAL FORM No. 7.

Showing the receipts and charges of the Presidency Court of Small Causes for the year 1886.

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Receipts					Charges.								
In Small Cause Court stamps.		In cash.		Total.	Salaries of Judges and Registrar.		Establishments.				Total.	Excess of column 5 over column 11, being the amount credited to Government.	Excess of column 11 over column 5, showing a deficit.
Institution, summons and process fees.	Other fees.	Fines.	Other receipts.				Serving officers and bailiffs.	Others.	Contingencies, including assessment on the Court buildings.	Refunds.			
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
					Chief Judge ...	24,000							
					Second Judge ...	12,000							
					Third Judge ...	12,000							
					Registrar ...	5,203							
1,73,825	* 2,812	...	370	1,77,007	Total ...	53,203	6,175	21,719	735	19,060	1,00,892	76,115	

* Column 2 includes Rs. 1,992, fees realized for copies of decrees furnished to parties under section 217, Civil Procedure Code, and also Rs. 200, fees realized from pleaders for 8 certificates for admission granted to them.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing particulars as to execution against the persons of judgment-debtors.

Year.	Average sum decreed.	Average sum for which any coercive process was issued.	Number of persons arrested and for what average sum.		Average amount of debt due by each person imprisoned.	The actual number of persons incarcerated.	Average term of incarceration undergone by parties discharged after imprisonment.	Number of persons arrested and brought before Court.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Days.	No.
1886	34 14 9	33 10 2	1,158	42 13 2	82 14 1	428	12	454

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report of the Madras Court of Small Causes, dated 8th March 1887, No. 206.

ORDER—dated 14th April 1887, No. 795, Judicial.

The Judges of the Presidency Court of Small Causes submit their thirty-sixth annual report, showing the disposal of work in their court during the year 1886.

2. The number of suits instituted during the year was 27,392, or 356 in excess of the number (27,036) instituted in the previous year. The average for the twelve years preceding 1886 was 25,864, and for five years 24,950. This general increase, however, was accompanied by a decrease in the number of suits in which the value of the subject-matter does not exceed Rs. 5. The figures for these petty suits during the past five years are as follow :—

Year.	Number of suits.
1882	5,826
1883	6,635
1884	6,933
1885	7,097
1886	6,624

It will be seen that up to 1886 there was a steady tendency to increase. The Judges do not suggest any reason for the sudden decline, and it is probably not possible to account for it at present, but the fact is worth recording.

3. There was also a considerable decrease * in the number of suits on negotiable instruments under Chapter XXXIX of the Code of Civil Procedure. The Judges observe, not without reason, that the advantages of the procedure under that chapter over the ordinary summary procedure of the court are not very great, and they are therefore prepared for its gradually falling into disuse. They notice, however, that the average duration of such suits, both in 1885 and 1886, was greater than that of the ordinary suits, and it is not improbable that the falling off in numbers may be due to this delay. The Judges explain that in contested suits of this nature delay is unavoidable owing to the necessity for issuing notice to the plaintiff to show cause why leave to defend should not be granted, and they admit that the reasons for the excessive delay in the uncontested suits are not clear. They believe it to be owing to intentional default on the part of the plaintiffs to apply for judgment. The Government would have felt more satisfied if the Judges had stated that this surmise was based upon actual examination of the records. However, the figures for the past year show a great improvement upon those for 1885, † and it seems reasonable to anticipate a considerable advance in the number of such summary suits if the decline was due to any delay in disposal as suggested above.

* 1885	305
1886	182

	Contested. Days.	Uncontested. Days.
† 1885	85	48
1886	44	30

4. The number of suits pending at the end of 1885 was 2,627, making the total number for disposal 30,019, or 362 less than in 1885. The following statement

shows the manner in which the work of the court was disposed of during the last five years :—

Year.	Number of suits instituted.	Number of suits for disposal.	Number of suits disposed of.	Number of contested cases.	Duration of suits in days.				Number of suits pending at end of the year.
					Ordinary.		Under Code of Civil Procedure, Chapter 39.		
					Contested.	Uncontested.	Contested.	Uncontested.	
1882	21,296	24,746	22,910	3,137	52	46	73	28	1,836
1883	25,079	26,915	24,085	3,676	41	37	49	60	2,830
1884	25,866	28,696	25,351	3,316	60	36	60	34	3,345
1885	27,036	30,381	27,754	4,702	40	28	85	48	2,627
1886	27,392	30,019	27,411	3,400	39	26	44	30	2,608

It will be seen that the number of suits for disposal and the number disposed of in 1886 were both about 350 less than in 1885. The most noticeable feature is the decrease of 1,302 in the number of contested cases as compared with 1885. The work of the court is well up to date, for although 2,608 cases were pending at the end of the year, only 300 of these could possibly have been decided within the year, the summonses in the other 2,308 not being returnable until 1887; and although these 300 cases had been adjourned, in all but 50 the adjournments were granted for the convenience of parties or their representatives. The court may therefore fairly claim to have disposed of almost the whole of the work before it. This result and the improvement in the rate of disposal of cases are very satisfactory. The duration of suits, both contested and uncontested, is the lowest on record.

5. The following table shows the amount of work done by each Judge and by the Registrar :—

Bench.	Number of days on which sittings were held.	Contested suits.	Uncontested suits.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
Chief Judge	250	575	936	2,589	4,100
Second do.	196	547	2,339	2,678	5,564
Third do.	196	504	1,936	1,783	4,223
Registrar	266	1,774	9,694	12,646	24,114
Total ..	908	3,400	14,905	19,696	38,001

In reviewing the report for 1885, the Government drew the attention of the Judges to the very large share of the work performed by the Registrar, and they expressed their opinion that it was of much importance that that officer should not be prevented, by an excess of judicial work, from attending to his ministerial duties. This report shows, however, a still further increase in the judicial work done by the Registrar, and the Judges express their extreme regret that they have not been able to comply with the wishes of the Government. The recent rules framed by the High Court, under section 33 of the Small Cause Court Act, declaring what non-judicial or *quasi*-judicial acts may be done by the Registrar, would only account for an increase in his miscellaneous work, and afford an additional reason for relieving him of judicial business. The Judges add, that they are unable to relieve the Registrar of any of his judicial work, as they have, during the past year, only just been able to cope with the current work of the court, and even to do this they have been obliged to sit until 5 o'clock on most days, and sometimes until 6. It would seem, however, that the court is capable of doing more work than it turned out in the past year. The number of contested suits disposed of was nearly 28 per cent. lower than in the year preceding, and also below the number in 1883; the total number of cases disposed of by the Judges, as distinguished from the Registrar, was also less in 1886 than in 1885. Then, again, the Government observe that the court was closed for 141 days,

including the vacation. This leaves 224 working days; yet the second and third Judges sat in court on 196 days only. The Chief Judge sat on each day in the vacation, except Saturdays and Sundays. This gives 46 working days in the vacation, which, with the 224 ordinary working days, gives 270 possible days against the 250 on which the Chief Judge actually sat. The Registrar, on the other hand, who is supposed to sit for only one month in the vacation, actually sat in court on 266 days.

6. Upon a consideration of these facts, the Government are of opinion that the Registrar might be relieved of some considerable portion of the purely judicial work now performed by him, and thus, enabled to give more time to his ministerial duties, which should not be left to be discharged by the head clerk. The Government desire to have further explanation on this point, although it is no doubt true, as observed by the Judges, that the cases tried by the Registrar are either uncontested or of a very petty nature, and therefore the evil is less than it appears at first sight.

7. The total value of the suits filed during the year was Rs. 12,13,[illegible], or Rs. 57,740 in excess of the value of suits filed in the previous year, and there has been a steady increase of about the same amount in each year since 1882. A similar steady growth in the revenue from fees is observable in each year since 1879, and in the year under review it amounted to Rs. 1,77,007 as against Rs. 1,70,635 in 1885, which was the highest on record. The charges, on the other hand, owing to accidental circumstances, decreased from Rs. 1,03,916 to Rs. 1,00,892, and the net earnings of the year were Rs. 76,115. In future years it will be convenient to show process fees separately, and also, to distinguish the cost of the process establishment paid from such fees. The Nazarat system, recently introduced in the courts up-country, must be extended to the Presidency Small Cause Court as soon as the question of transferring to it a portion of the High Court's Original Jurisdiction has been settled.

8. The Government notice with satisfaction that the number of applications for new trials again shows a decrease. New trials were granted in 19 cases only. The High Court reversed the decision of the Court of Small Causes in only one of the 12 cases in which it called for the records.

*1884	298
1885	163
1886	111

9. The amount realized for decree-holders, with or without process, was very nearly the same as in 1885, viz., Rs. 1,73,920 as against Rs. 1,75,756. The proportions of decrees completely executed and wholly infructuous were also nearly identical with the proportions in 1885. The number of debtors incarcerated was 428 against 490, and the average term of imprisonment was 12 against 14 days.

10. On the whole His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the report shows that the work of the court during the past year has been expeditious and generally satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Chief Secretary.